

Morgantown Tree Board (MTB)

Minutes, regular meeting of January 28, 2013

Present: MTB members Dan Brown, Katherine Payne, Greg Dahle, Secretary Jon Weems, and Chair Kara Hurst, and guests Ann Payne and Alice Meehan

Chair Kara called the meeting to order at 4:32 in City Council chambers and noted that a quorum was present.

Greg moved and Katherine seconded that the minutes of the December 17, 2012 meeting be approved as drafted. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Year of the Tree (YOTT) update. The agenda was set to allow Ann and Alice, representing the YOTT effort, to go first. General satisfaction was expressed with efforts to date. It was agreed that continuing coordination would be good. Ann and Alice specifically mentioned that MTB help would be needed for the “biggest, baddest tree” effort. They mentioned the need for MTB to let YOTT know about any MTB events so YOTT could include them on its calendar. They spoke of several things already on the YOTT calendar, including a Valentine’s Day surprise, a wood art show in September and October, and producer Mark Dixon bringing his award-winning film “Your Environmental Road Trip” to WVU on April 3. They spoke of a possible Kathy Mattea concert involving songs such as “The Maple’s Lament.” They mentioned that the Morgantown Public Library will be featuring tree-themed books all year.

2. Arbor Day 2013. Ann and Alice asked about a possible spring Arbor Day, but MTB members preferred a fall date as more likely to be successful for the trees planted. After discussion, it was decided Morgantown’s Arbor Day 2013 would be October 12. A discussion of neighborhoods revealed a desire to celebrate Arbor Day in a part of the city where MTB has not planted trees recently. Sabraton and Jerome Park were mentioned as possibilities.

4. MTRP. MTB expressed gratitude to Marchetta and William for their good work with the crew from Reynolds. Overall, the experience of working with Reynolds to plant 31 trees was highly satisfactory. One tree on Grand was planted across the street from its intended location, but it was decided not to move the tree.

Old Business

1. Web site. Kara has been ill and has had to reschedule her meeting with Susan Sullivan. Mention was made of a need for greater contrast between lettering and background.

2. Roh Trees. There have been no recent developments. Dan will talk with Jack and/or Mr. Roh in this regard.

3. Tree Inventory. Belief was expressed that Dave, not present, is contacting Jeff to point out that the Tree Tracker software is needed this year.

4. Tree of the Month. General satisfaction was expressed with the trees selected by Katherine, Greg, and Jon. Dan and Jon will develop very brief articles about each species. MTB needs to have articles and photos together by the middle of each month for likely publication on the last Sunday of the month.

5. Budget. Kara indicated she will preface her budget request by mentioning the YOTT effort. She pointed out that Jeff has been swamped lately, and this would continue with him serving as interim City Manager. She said she would mention the need for funds for a part-time arborist but is unsure what a certified arborist would charge for the part-time work envisioned. There was general agreement that city workers should be able to remove piled trimmings, rather than have the contracted arborist spend time on this task that does not require special training and knowledge.

6. Next meeting. The next MTB meeting was set for 4:30 PM Monday, February 25, in City Council chambers.

Greg moved for adjournment. Katherine seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:22 PM.

Jon Weems